GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Contents for Week of April 29, 1929. Vol. VIII. No. 10

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© *Photograph by Robert K. Bonine*

A RICE FIELD ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU: HAWAII

In the background rises the "Punchbowl," crater of an extinct volcano in the center of Honolulu. The Hawaiian Islands extend over a tremendous area of the Pacific (see Bulletin No. 2). They are an integral part of the United States, as distinguished from the Philippines, which are a United States possession.

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Naco: Where U. S. Troops Protect American Property

NACO, where United States troops were ordered to protect American property soon after the outbreak of the Mexican revolution, is a town of about 300 inhabitants, lying astride the Mexican border 25 miles west of Douglas, Arizona.

Naco came into existence a generation ago with the opening of a huge copper mining camp at Cananea, Mexico, which lies a few miles south of the border town on a branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Town of Adobe Buildings and Weatherbeaten Shacks

The town is situated in a dusty plain with the San Jose Mountain of Sonora rising above it to the south, and the Huachuca Mountain range lying to the west.

Before the advent of the railroad, huge, high-wheeled freight wagons and stage coaches, drawn by eight or ten horses, plied between Tombstone and Bisbee, Arizona, and near-by Mexican towns, crossing the border at Naco. Then Naco was a small settlement with red adobe houses and weatherbeaten, wooden shacks lining a street bisected by the International Line. Except for the addition of a few similar buildings, a depot, post office and customs house, few changes have taken place in Naco. The American portion of the town, which is mostly residential, is almost lifeless; but the gay border life on the Mexican side resounds all over the neighborhood.

Raids Across Border Were Frequent

To the south of Naco lie the famous American-owned Turkey Track, Cananea, and San Rafael cattle ranches. In peace time the greatest excitement in Naco, during the day, is the passing of cattle from Mexico to the United States, and fuel, oil, lumber, food, clothing and other supplies to Mexican points.

In the past, crime and turbulence in Naco frequently brought American troops from the nearest garrisons at Douglas and Fort Huachuca in the Huachuca Mountains, about a day's march from the town. Raids across the border were frequent, and the water works of Bisbee, which are in the border town, were threatened. Bisbee lies 9 miles north of Naco. The water is pumped from Naco wells.

During revolutions, many millions of dollars' worth of concentrates and copper bars are transported from Mexico into the United States through Naco for protection against confiscation by warring Mexican factions.

Bulletin No. 1, April 29, 1929.

© Photograph by Junius B. Wood

A STREET SCENE IN DAMASCUS, WITH THE DOME AND MINARETS OF THE OMMIAD MOSQUE IN THE DISTANCE

In the bazaars of the Near East there is a bewildering complexity of color, of race, and of commodity, and Damascus boasts them in quantity—the Gold Bazaar, the Grain Bazaar, the Street Called Straight, the Sweets Bazaar, the Silk Bazaar, and others (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Uncle Sam's Nine Thousand Islands

WHEN Congress accepted a group of Samoan Islands to become a part of our national domain, it added six more bits of land to the thousands of islands we now own. The "thousands" is literal—for the United States has acquired some 9,000 islands outside the boundaries of the 48 States.

This host of territorial islands is scattered from the South Pacific north across the Arctic Circle. They sprinkle the seas of both hemispheres for a distance of 15,000 miles from St. John, in the Virgin Islands, to Balabac Island on the outskirts of the Philippines.

A "Milky Way" of Islands

While 9,000 islands are few, perhaps, beside the island collections of Great Britain, Holland and France, yet American territorial islands decorate the oceans like star galaxies ornament the heavens.

The Philippines are the "Milky Way" of the United States island constellations. They alone comprise approximately 8,000 islands. Everyone knows about Luzon, the monster Philippine Island, as large as Ohio in area. Almost nothing is known of the 7,000 islets in the Archipelago having an area of one-tenth of a square mile or more.

Then there is the scarf of Aleutians swung across the blue sea void toward Asia. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey does not know for sure how many Aleutians there are, but it is endeavoring to find out by airplane surveys. Then, down in the panhandle of Alaska lie many more islands behind whose protecting flanks steamers thread their way up the Inland Passage. Other islands fret the Alaskan coast, including a famous little sandbar of an island behind which Wilkins and Eielson took off to fly across the top of the world.

Wide Spread of Hawaiians

How large is Hawaii? That all depends upon how the Territory is measured. By square miles of land the Hawaiian Islands have an area equal to Connecticut and Rhode Island. By their spread over the Pacific Ocean the islands occupy a region as long from east to west as the United States is long and as wide as the United States is wide. Wake Island, of the Territory of Hawaii, an uninhabited atoll 18 feet above sea level, lies nearly 3,000 miles away from the Island of Hawaii.

To American citizens who wish to be marooned on an uninhabited island with ten selected books, the United States offers endless opportunities. In the West Indies there are some very nice islands on which Nature, barring occasional lapses, maintains the quietness of a good library. Wake Island, previously mentioned, assures almost perfect privacy. The nearest bit of land is 300 miles away.

Rose Island, in the Samoan group, has unusual advantages for the seeker of literary leisure. It is 80 miles east of its nearest neighbor; climate, equable; real estate, one island half a square mile in area comfortably situated within a coral breakwater; inhabitants, none; fishing, excellent, although many species are poisonous. New packets of ten selected books could be obtained by the small boat which comes to Rose Island annually to deposit emergency stores of food and water for the use of sailors who might be shipwrecked.

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MARINA PICCOLA, A SMALL HARBOR: SORRENTO

Between the eastern ravine which terminates in this "small harbor," and the western ravine ending in the Marina Grande, towers the rock to which clings Sorrento, an iridescent gem among Italian resorts combining the unsurpassed natural beauties of marine prospects and landscapes of orange and lemon groves with historic memories of Roman occupation (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Some Picture Places Which Lure Artists

WITH the coming of summer, artists begin their migrations to seashore and mountain resorts, and tourists, impressed by the artists' judgment, often seek out these art colonies as vacation places.

It sometimes seems that oil painting, and landscape painting in particular, is almost as localized nowadays as the manufacture of tires in Akron and furniture in Grand Rapids.

In passing through any large American exhibit of paintings, an experienced person can, without inspecting the titles, recognize Gloucester's fishing boats; a Bucks County, Pennsylvania, valley; the rocks of Boothbay, Maine; the maples of Dublin, New Hampshire, and the familiar Indian faces of Taos, New Mexico.

Some American Art Colonies

That beauty has no boundaries every artist recognizes, yet certain towns have attained reputations as "picture places" of the world. Easels spring up like mushrooms before favorite views. Notable American art colonies include Provincetown, Gloucester and Rockport, Massachusetts; Boothbay, Maine; Dublin, New Hampshire; Woodstock, New York; Bucks County, Pennsylvania; Charleston, South Carolina; Cass, Arkansas; Brown County, Indiana; Taos and Santa Fe, New Mexico; and Santa Barbara, California.

Artists have always congregated in certain wards of great cities: such quarters as Greenwich Village in New York, Montmartre in Paris, and St. Johns Wood, London.

Probably the first rural art colony is that established by Corot, Rousseau and Millet at Barbizon. They are the recognized masters of the Barbizon school, named for a quaint old village on the edge of the Forest of Fontainebleau. Millet painted the peasants at work in the level fields beyond the town. Corot painted his misty trees on the edge of the forest, while Rousseau put on canvas the cool depths of the woods. Numerous disciples flocked to Barbizon. Many Americans touring to Fontainebleau out of Paris tarry at the village long enough to see Millet's house with an unfinished painting still on the easel.

Some European Art Haunts

Concarneau, Douarnenez, and Pont Aven, all on the Brittany coast, are important art colonies in France to-day. Honfleur and St. Malo in Normandy entice many, but not so many brush wielders. British artists of note have chosen Newlyn, or St. Ives, in Cornwall, as a permanent residence and subject for their canvases. Tunbridge Wells on the Kent downs is another favorite haunt and Lyme Regis figures as a colony because of Whistler's long association with the place.

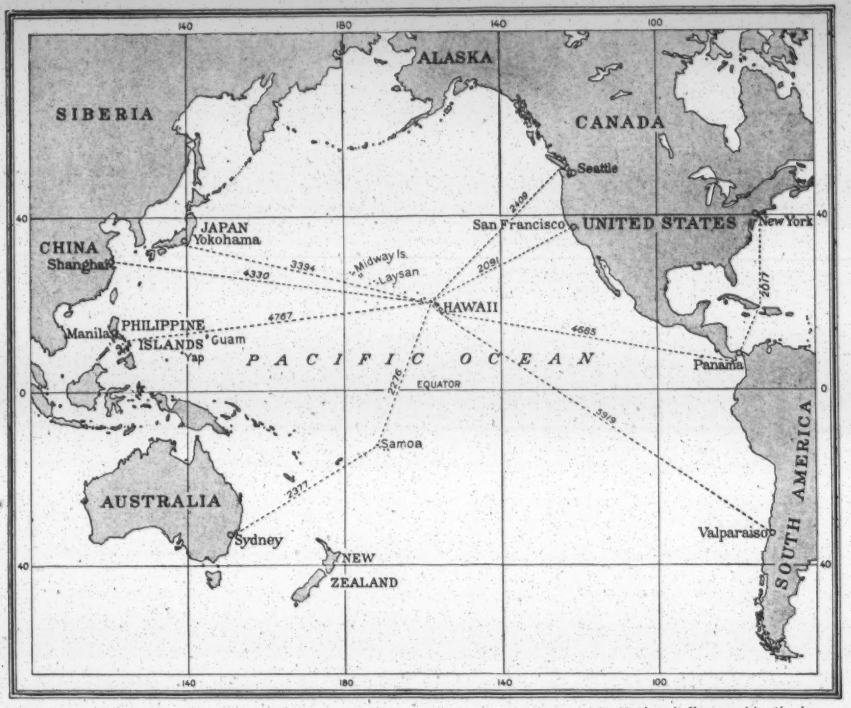
Across the North Sea is Scheveningen, Holland, which is said to have the most painted beach in the world. In Germany, Oberammergau, the Passion Play town, has acquired a nest of artists. Corot and other famous French and Swiss artists gave Gruyère, the cheese city, an art boom because of its natural beauty. In addition to the new Bonassola settlement, Italy has colonies at Sorrento on the Bay of Naples, at Rocca Canterano in the Sabine Hills back of Rome, and at Bolzano (formerly Bozen) among the marvelous Dolomites of the Upper Adige.

Fishing boats are almost a necessity for any town which aspires to an art

The Samoan Islands loom large in the history of the United States' foreign policy. The joint agreement of Great Britain, the United States and Germany to establish a protectorate over the islands represented, it was said, the first departure from our nation's historic attitude toward alliances. The joint protectorate did not work out well, so, by treaties in 1900 and 1904, the United States took control over the eastern half of the islands containing Pago Pago harbor, the finest in all the South Seas. Congress, after all these years, has passed a resolution accepting the 29-year-old gift of the islands from the Samoan chiefs.

In the lists of American territorial possessions, one group of islands seldom appears. The status of 70 guano islands scattered all over the Pacific is indefinite. Even the position and existence of some of them is indefinite. By a law passed in 1856, the United States extended temporary protection to American citizens exploiting guano deposits on bird islands. While the United States is not obliged to maintain sovereignty over guano islands, neither has she surrendered all rights. Over some islets and banks such as Navassa Island, between Jamaica and Haiti, Quita Sueno Bank, Roncador Cay, Serrana Bank, and Swan Islands, all in the western Caribbean, and Gente Hermosa or Swains Island, near Samoa, the American flag flies without question.

Bulletin No. 2, April 29, 1929.



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MAP SHOWING THE STRATEGIC LOCATION OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

These islands, at the crossroads of the Pacific, command every important trade route across the Pacific to China and the Orient (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Iraq, and the Wahabis

IRAQ, the historic land of the Garden of Eden, is threatened with attack by desert Bedouins from the realm of Ibn Saud in Arabia. The raiders are Wahabis, wildest tribes in the Arabian Peninsula, who have at times been allies of Ibn Saud in his reign over Nejd, but at other times have defied his control.

The Wahabi sect was founded in the eighteenth century by Abd el Wahab. He was a Moslem Puritan seeking to turn his faith back to what he considered its simple fundamentals. He was disturbed by the growing practice of worshipping Mohammed, as well as Allah.

The powerful Wahabi state, centering in the interior of Arabia, was crushed by combined Egyptian and Turkish forces in 1811 and 1818. Since then, however, the sect has been growing. After the World War, the Wahabis conquered nearly all rival tribes, captured Mecca and Mecca's seaport Jidda, through which they have acquired military supplies.

The Arabian peninsula spreads over an area one-third as large as the United States. Working from within, Ibn Saud, leader of the Wahabis, has extended his domination to the peninsula's fringe. The Wahabis now seek to convert the Moslems of Iraq to their own way of Moslem thinking by the sword since peaceful persuasion has failed.

Land of the Traditional Garden of Eden

Iraq is the modern name for the traditional Garden of Eden, historically known as Mesopotamia. The cradle of civilization, in the belief of many archaeologists and historians, is this very valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Iraq lies between the Arabian desert on one side and the Persian uplands on the other. West lies the French Mandate of Syria; north the Kurdish highlands of Turkey. The Persian Gulf forms a corridor 1,000 miles long, giving Iraq a waterway to the open Indian Ocean. Dates from "the Garden" come to New York by way of this corridor. Within Iraq live 3,000,000 people, a slim population for soil which once supported more people per acre than does densely populated Belgium.

Great Britain controls Iraq as a mandate from the League of Nations. The tendency to grant the people of Iraq increasing independence was revealed when the oldest country in the world made application to become the newest member of the League.

King Feisal Holds Ancient and Notable Throne

Great Britain has made her Mesopotamian mandate the Arab Kingdom of Iraq, ruled by a Mohammedan prince, the son of the former King of Hejaz. King Feisal reigns where Babylonians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and Saracens ruled successively for six centuries.

Of the three principal cities, Mosul, the oil town, seems safely beyond reach of the Bedouins. Bagdad, in the center of the valley, comes by its position of capital honestly. Basra, in the far south, is the end of what was to have been the Berlin-Bagdad Railway.

Time after time city ways have softened city conquerors until a new barbaric horde swept over them. City Arabs have taken readily to civilization's

colony. Artists love fishing boats; more than half the art colonies are located on the sea within sight of sails—not tailored yacht sails, but the good, honest, work-a-day sails of fishing boats. The list is long: St. Malo, Honfleur, Scheveningen, Newlyn, St. Ives, Sorrento, Gloucester, Provincetown, Boothbay, Rockport and others.

If a painter can ignore the smell of the Douarnenez and Concarneau sardine factories in his enthusiasm over the red-brown sails of the sardine boats, he is, indeed, a true artist.

Most men and women who paint are sun-worshipers. Because colors leap in the sunshine, artists congregate on the sunniest coasts of northern France and of southern England. The brilliant sun of New Mexico fills the pictures by the Taos and Sante Fe desert artists. Warm sunshine, in exchange for the cold, cloudy days of the North, has enabled Charleston, South Carolina, to become the winter mecca for many American brushmen.

Some Art "Colonizers"

One master artist, by taking up residence in a town, may plant the seed of an art colony. Abbott H. Thayer gave Dublin, New Hampshire, its start; George W. Bellows' name is associated with Woodstock; Hawthorne with Provincetown; Edward W. Redfield with Bucks County, Pennsylvania; James Maris with Scheveningen and Whistler with Lyme Regis.

Redfield was a student in Paris when financial reverses sustained by his parents compelled him to return home and assume the burden of operating a florist's hothouse. Because the work was light in winter, Redfield was free only in the cold, snowy season of the year to paint in Bucks County. By this accident of fortune he won fame as a painter of woodland winter scenes.

"Quiet Beauty of a Contented Valley"

There is such a close similarity between the country in the Ozarks, in Brown County, Indiana, and near Woodstock, New York, to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that the type may be considered scenery that artists prefer. Each of these colonies is located in a rolling country of friendly hills which carry crowns of fine trees. Each has snug valleys between the hills and, in the valleys, winding streams, clots of trees and farmhouses and barns not too new.

Often a happy combination of geographic features makes an art colony. Would Thayer have been such a potent force at Dublin had he not had the excellent assistance of Mt. Monadnock, mirrored in a blue lake, and the annual New England autumn which brings a delirious riot of solid colors?

In 1898, three artists bought a wagon and started to tour the Indian pueblos of the Southwest. Taos, one of the first they came to, had such a fine pueblo pile and such excellent Indian subjects that the three artists never completed their tour. So Taos became an outstanding art colony of the Southwest.

The vistas of Sorrento, Italy, attract partly because the breezes are cooler on its side of the Bay of Naples than on the north shore. Peasant women of unusual beauty living in the Sabine Hills bring Rome's artists to Rocca Canterano, while an excellent art-goods store at Bolzano raises the famous scenery of the Dolomites in the estimation of artists.

The red pants of the fishermen on the beach of Scheveningen supply the necessary bright notes in a yellow sand and blue sea landscape. The red-brown sails of Douarnenez and Concarneau are only a trifle more famous in the world of art than the blue nets which the sardine fishermen drape on masts to dry. Then there are the superannuated old salts in berets, wearing multicolored and multi-bleached clothes, and sitting as immovable as so many still-life vases in the sunniest spots on the wharf. The quip that called Pont Aven the town of 14 houses and 15 water-wheel mills sums up its special attraction for artists, but neglects to include the Bois d'Amour, a graceful forest, the cutting down of which has lowered Pont Aven from its position as the first art colony on the Brittany coast.

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What Is a City?

IF YOU should go to England this summer and visit historic Plymouth, which gave its name to a number of American communities, you would find it proud of its new designation, that of a "city." And when you found that it had been a "town" for many years, in spite of its 200,000 population, you might ask, "What is a city?" Certainly, Richmond, Virginia, or Syracuse, New York, having about the same population, regard themselves as cities.

It would seem that the requirements for the designation, "city," vary in different parts of the world.

Formerly any English town having a cathedral was called a city. A later status, not legally confirmed, gave incorporated towns which were or had been episcopal sees (seats of bishops' jurisdiction), the right to that designation. In modern days royal authority confers the title. Examples are Leeds and the more recent Plymouth. The fact that the latter has now become a city is of special interest to Americans who associate it with the voyage of the Pilgrim Fathers.

Royal charter also grants the title to important boroughs in Ireland or Scotland. Formerly the name "city" was applied to all episcopal seats, irrespective of size or importance, in these two countries. Later the designation was confined to the more important seats. To-day commercial importance is most often the factor through which royal charter makes Scotch and Irish towns into "cities."

City Requirements Vary in U. S.

No ironclad rules govern the taking of this title in the United States. In many States the name "city" denotes a municipality of greater population than a town or borough. In Minnesota, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, a borough corresponds in general to incorporated towns or villages of other States. The legal characteristics in some States demand a municipality incorporated and governed by a mayor and a board of aldermen or councilmen, or by a city council composed of a board of councilmen or a board of aldermen.

In the States where population designates which are cities and which are towns, the numerical requirement necessary to constitute a "city" varies. In Massachusetts, towns having a population far larger than communities which proclaim themselves "cities" cling to their "town" designations because of historic pride in their "town meetings." Brookline, for example, with 40,000 people, insists on remaining a "town."

Word "City" of Latin Extraction

The English "city" and the French "cité" are used in versions of the Bible to translate the Latin "civitas." That the Israelites did not discriminate between "cities" and "towns" is apparent in the fact that they referred to a comparative metropolis like Jerusalem and small communities like Bethlehem and Nazareth all as "cities."

The Greeks and Romans regarded a town as any assemblage of people living together under municipal laws. A city had the status of an independent state. Inhabitants of the surrounding countryside were allowed the rights of citizenship. Athens and Rome were early city-states. Medieval Italy had many

ways. They work in ice and cotton cloth factories, upon public works and engineering projects.

Much agricultural land has been reclaimed by irrigation in an effort to revive the luxuriant region of the Garden of Eden. Dates from the date palm are the chief product. Wheat, barley and rice are also grown. Experiments looking toward cotton growing have been promoted. Vegetables and flowers thrive in the protecting shade of palm fronds.

The scene of expected conflict figures prominently in the Old Testament. Abraham set forth from Ur to the land of Canaan. The traditional ruins of the Tower of Babel rise on Babylon's site. The tomb of the prophet Ezra can still be seen on the Tigris shore.

Bulletin No. 4, April 29, 1929.

Photograph by Herbert B. Turner © National Geographic Society

DRYING SAILS AFTER THE STORM: GLOUCESTER, MASS.

One gets a vivid idea of the wealth of the sea at Gloucester. Cod and mackerel, haddock, herring, and halibut; tautog and quahog; scup and sculpin; swordfish and spikefish; tinkers, cusk, and eels; blue fish and butterfish; flounder, perch, and sea trout; oysters, lobsters, and clams—one must tax his fishing lore to enumerate the species that are brought into port daily. Also this picture illustrates a reason why so many artists gather at Gloucester each summer (See Bulletin No. 3).

famous city-states, such as Venice and Florence. And, in our own time, the treaty of Versailles set up the Free City of Danzig.

China Had Walled Cities

In China, cities are walled towns. The rank of a city is designated by a prefix or suffix attached to its name. Thus "fu," "chow," or "ting" affixed to the name of the city indicates its respective importance in the "tao," or section of the province in which it is located.

It is claimed that Damascus in Syria is the world's oldest city. The exact date of its origin is unknown. While cities of great renown have antedated Damascus, it has good claim to being the oldest city continuously inhabited. Modern Damascus is not unlike the city that stood in the days of the prophets. It is still of commercial importance, a center of trade for the surrounding desert.

Bulletin No. 5, April 29, 1929.

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ST. MALO REARS ITS RAMPARTS FROM THE SEA

The beaches of this famous seaport are more preferred for bathing than are those of Ver-sur-Mer, the more modest resort on the Norman coast, where Commander Byrd's ship, the *America*, landed on its transatlantic flight. They consist of fine sand and slope gradually, whereas the latter's are mixed with rough pebbles. Most of the ramparts date from the sixteenth century, and from their top one looks out over the islet-dotted bay and over the curious old town itself, with its Old-World streets. The towers of Grande-Porte, the city walls, the crowded houses, and the tall cathedral spire of the old channel fortress make a beautiful picture. At this port, the meeting place of ocean and channel tides, the difference between high and low water sometimes amounts during the equinoxes to nearly 50 feet (see Bulletin No. 3).